

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

ANDY GIPSON COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

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What: Press Conference to Announce International Trade Office

When: Monday, June 14, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Bolton Building

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss.

Ag Commissioner Gipson to Announce Opening of New International Trade Office on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson will announce the opening of a new international trade office on the Mississippi Gulf Coast on Monday, June 14, at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Bolton Building in Biloxi. Commissioner Gipson will be joined by Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President Mike McCormick.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) will open the office in the Bolton Building to enhance the Department's international marketing efforts through the promotion of Mississippi's commodities and goods, including aquaculture. The international trade office will conduct trainings for local businesses interested in exploring international markets and will educate agricultural and food business on the marketing and financial opportunities offered through the Southern U.S. Trade Association, a non-profit trade association which Commissioner Gipson currently serves as President. In addition, this new MDAC office will address agricultural and commerce issues in South Mississippi.

"I am pleased to announce that the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce will be expanding our presence in the state with an office on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Gulf Coast is at the heart of much of our state's international trade efforts. This additional office will generate an increased interest in the state's agriculture and aquaculture commodities, particularly for exports, and will allow us to have a closer pulse on the agriculture and commerce issues constituents in South Mississippi are facing," said Commissioner Gipson.

For more information, visit <u>www.mdac.ms.gov</u> or follow the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Facebook page for the latest agriculture news and updates.